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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed electronically with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the below date:

Date: June 4, 2010 Name: Tadashi Horie, Reg. No. 40,437 Signature: 

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Satoru Adachi et al.

Serial No. 10/680,205

Filing Date: October 8, 2003

For: IMAGE ENCODING METHOD, IMAGE  
DECODING METHOD, IMAGE ENCODING  
APPARATUS, IMAGE DECODING  
APPARATUS, IMAGE ENCODING  
PROGRAM, AND IMAGE DECODING  
PROGRAM

Attorney Docket No. 9683/261

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) Examiner: Jayesh A. Patel  
) Group Art Unit No. 2624  
) Confirmation No. 7459  
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**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated January 19, 2010, please consider the following Remarks:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.